



PRESS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006

For Immediate Release

April 14, 2005

Contact Person

Rita M. Rumbelow
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Walter Allen Harris, of Beloit, Wisconsin, DOB 09/17/1951, pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Madison to unlawfully possessing a firearm as a convicted felon on January 19, 2005, in Beloit. Officers did a consent search of Harris's apartment on that date and located a loaded Sig Sauer pistol.

U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz scheduled sentencing for June 24, 2005, at 1:15 p.m. Harris faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison, a three-year term of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine.

The charge against Harris was the result of an ongoing Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) investigation in Rock County. The criminal investigation was conducted by the Beloit Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

#